21-1942

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

COMMUNITY PROJECT LOCATED IN VICE AREA

MAR 5 1941

Work Done In West Memphis WPA Center Explained

MAR 5 1941

D. W. Hughes, recreational supervisor of the West Memphis Negro Community Center, yesterday asked clarification of a story in The Commercial Appeal Sunday regarding the wide open vice conditions on West Memphis' Eighth Street which are luring Memphis negroes across the river.

Hughes said that in th eieghborhood described as a two-block-long vice Mecca "is situated the negro community center, which is the home of a WPA recreational and adult education program.

Practical economy, including cooking, health, heat and ventilation, are taught as well as simple arts such as writing, drawing, paper cutting and tearing, painting, cloth cutting, rubber cutting, wood carving and weaving, according to Hughes. The community center, Hughes said, also offers the study of various subjects.

The center is housed in a two-story building owned by James Harris, negro farmer of Parkin, Ark., according to Hughes, who said that it is sponsored by the West Memphis Civic League, the West Memphis Civic Club and the Town of West Memphis.